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los angeles valley college's

VALLEY STAR

the independent student newspaper

PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

The music department brings 'Opera de Paris' of the late 1800s to Valley College.

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lavalleystar.com | March 10, 2010 | Volume 72 Issue 3

Valley Students Protest Budget Cuts

Valley College activists try to inform people and obtain recruits for a massive protest at CSUN Mar. 4 for the "Statewide Day of Action."

JONATHAN SEELEY
STAFF WRITER

GRETTEL CORTES, CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER | VALLEY STAR

LET YOUR VOICES BE HEARD - Valley students Andrea Barrera and Fiona Pulskamp carry signs and chant on Thursday to protest the looming statewide budget cuts threatening to raise tuition again.

"The students united will never be divided!" A small group of Valley College Students chanted slogans like this to bring attention to proposed public education cuts. The group that stood on the corner of Burbank and Fulton was never larger than 9 or 10 and featured members of Art club, La Raza, and PAC (political action committee).

Samuel Tecpatl of La Raza (formerly MEChA) said this group was planning on going to the larger protest march at CSUN later in the day for the "Statewide Day of Action," which would protest a 33 percent increase in fees, coupled with an end to the BOG (board of governors) fee waiver, reductions in grants, and EOPS. Similar protests sprung up all over the state, and country, with thousands participating. The CSUN protests were mostly peaceful, but did result in some arrests, and left one faculty member with a broken arm when she was trampled by advancing police.

"Some people say 'What's the point? You're not gonna solve anything,'" said Tecpatl. "Well, some people don't know about the issues we're facing. We gotta create awareness … you create awareness first, then take action."

The students did this by chanting their slogans, and speaking directly to people passing by; some people inquired curiously about the event, motorists honked their horns in support, others simply ignored the protestors.

In May of 2009 Governor Schwarzenegger proposed to cut $680 million from public education in the 2009-2010 budget year to try and balance the states $26 billion deficit.

These proposals were met with stiff opposition from faculty and students.

California missed out on at least $700 million from the Obama administration's $4.6 billion "Race to the Top" competition this year, despite making education reforms.

According to The Washington Post, $520 million was cut from community colleges in 2009-2010.

"The Cal-state system lost one-fifth of its state funding in the past two years, and students have absorbed a 32 percent tuition increase this year. The system's 48,000 employees took a 10 percent pay cut through furloughs," which require employees to take two unpaid days off per month. This year a record number of students registered for college despite reductions in class sizes, overcrowding, and climbing tuition costs. Thousands of prospective students will be turned away this year.

Now an additional 33 percent will be added to tuition, which would bring the cost to around $35 per unit. According to the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office (cccco.edu) the revenue generated by fee increases is not distributed to the college districts, and instead mostly goes to the state. Community College was free until 1984-85 when a $5 per unit fee was applied, and has increased to its current level of $26 per unit.

In the January 2010 "State of the State Address," Governor Schwarzenegger suggested privatization of state prisons as a way to avoid cuts to education. He also wants an increase in the sales tax, and a 5 percent reduction in state employee salaries.

"Priorities have become out of whack over the years." The governor said, "…30 years ago, 10 percent of the general fun went to higher education, and only three percent went to prisons. Today almost 11 percent goes to prisons, and only seven and a half percent goes to higher education. Spending 45 percent more on prison than universities is no way to proceed into the future."

For more photos regarding the student protests see **Gallery**, page 8.

ONLINE EXCLUSIVE

Protests To Be Continued

Follow our online columnist, Jonathan Seeley, for more information regarding the student protests.

ONLINE SLIDESHOW

Women's Rally

Go online to see our slideshow on the International Womens Day Rally

ONLINE PODCAST

Have You Heard

Visit us online to hear our bi-weekly ValleyTalk podcasts.

These features and more can be found in full @ www.lavalleystar.com

Sexual Harassment Training Employees

Valley College activists try to inform people and obtain recruits for a protest.

LUCAS THOMPSON
MANAGING EDITOR

Valley College President Sue Carleo announced Feb. 19 that all full-time adjunct faculty, and classified employees would be taking mandatory online training classes regarding sexual harassment. Though online is the preferred method, according to Valley Compliance Officer Charmagne Shearrill, a two-hour classroom workshop was offered in place of the one-hour online course.

"It's very beneficial; I think it's important for people to be aware what constitutes sexual harassment," Shearrill said. "I think if you don't know what constitutes it, it gets kind of

|See **HARASSMENT**, Page 2|

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY ANGELA BEACH | VALLEY STAR

College Students Targeted for Identity Theft

Identity theft is a growing problem in America and college students are the ideal target.

CAROLINA LEON
STAFF WRITER

Students are often told to protect themselves from dangerous situations, but now they have to worry about their identity exponentially more everyday.

According to the Federal Trade Commission, identity theft is the largest consumer complaint. The FTC complaint study shows that the bracket for 18-29 year olds accounts for 24 percent of all identity theft complaints.

Dean of Enrollment, Florentino Manzano, stated, "As a young adult I was not careful with my information. Maybe that has not changed. We need to be vigilant."

Who's looking into your eyes?
Nearly 7 percent of all adults in America have had their identity misused as a result of identity theft. According to the Javelin Strategy & Research Survey there were well over 11,000,000 victims of identity theft in the United States in 2009 alone with a whopping price tag of over $54 billion.

Students are often more vulnerable to identity theft because most are in good standing with their credit or have blank credit and no criminal charges. Personal information is easily accessible through daily activities that they overlooked. Activities such as talking on a cell phone in public, having a roommate, discarding mail before shredding it, and leaving belongings unattended are some of the many ways students are putting themselves at risk.

Although identity theft is a popular crime, not many students are aware of the seriousness of this act. Many people are confused about what identity theft is, how to protect against it, and what to do if you become a victim.

"Valley College no longer uses social security numbers as identification; in order to lower the chances of identity theft, all students are given a district-issued number," said Manzano.

There are many other ways to reduce the risk of becoming a victim of identity theft. The U.S. Department of Education recommends never giving out personal information over the phone or Internet unless you initiate the contact; do not carry personal information such as your social security card. Ordering your free annual credit report to check for accuracy or strange activity can also be beneficial. If students believe they are a victim of identity theft, reporting a fraud alert to the credit bureaus, filing a police report and a claim with the Federal Trade Commission, as well as speaking to the Internal Revenue Service is necessary.

THE LOW DOWN

CALIFORNIA INDULGED INTO A GLUTTONOUS STATE

There's a big fat problem haunting California with the local cuisine being considerably less than healthy.

CRISTINA SERRATO

Each country has its own set of issues, but the United States has an issue uniquely its' own: Obesity. There is no other country in this world with the same obesity issues as the US and according to the World Health Organization (WHO), the US is the fattest country in the world.

"I say if you got a belly, rub it," said Javon Prince, theater major at Valley College. "Nothing wrong with a 'lil bit of meat on your bones."

Obesity in America is quickly becoming the norm as most states have a documented obesity rate of more than 20 percent, according to the Center for Disease Control(CDC). While Colorado is the thinnest state at an 18 percent obesity rate, California falls

|See **COLUMN**, Page 2|

COLUMN

Continued from page 1

directly in the middle at 24 percent. In 2008, one out of every three adults in the US was overweight, according to the Weight-control Information Network, Blacks had a 51 percent and Hispanics had a 21 percent prevalence of obesity over Whites. Unfortunately, the youth is also becoming obese.

"I think obesity is a problem when it comes to children. There are so many working parents and they need to make healthy choices for their children, instead of the fast choices," commented Valley student Merari Ramirez. She continued, "We need to teach them proper choices, be examples."

Obesity is now among the most widespread medical problems affecting children and adolescents living in the United States. About 15 percent of adolescents and children are obese in the US, according to the American Obesity Association and one out of seven preschool-aged child is obese, according to the CDC. Many obese children grow into obese adults and have a higher risk for the many obesity-related illnesses such as heart disease, high blood pressure or cholesterol, Type 2 diabetes and stroke.

"Many L.A. schools don't offer cafeteria food or healthy options, just vending machines and close fast food places," said Dettra Doyle, business major. "It can be hard to eat healthy."

Many agencies follow the growing trend of American obesity and although the number has yet to decline, they seem to be tapering off, according to the American Obesity Association. In 2003 however, the Los Angeles Department of Health Services division of Public Health released a study showing that obesity has risen in the San Fernando Valley to 16 percent for adults and 32.9 percent for children. That's more than 22 percent for children in eight years. The San Fernando has the sixth highest obesity rate in the nation, according to the study by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Office of Health Assessment and Epidemiology.

"I don't think that Valley is obese overall," said Valley student Charles Randle. "But I would still like more healthy food options."

The CDC recommends that students of all ages "have appealing, healthy choices in foods and beverages," in order for obesity to be prevented, along with exercise, of course.

Valley offers a variety of healthy food choices in the cafeteria, vending machines, and even in nearby restaurants, making it easier for the busy student to forgo the unhealthy microwave dinner or fast food for a healthy alternative. Many health and physical education classes are also offered for the willing student at several difficulty levels.

For more information on obesity in America please go to www.cdc.gov or www.obesity.org for the American Obesity Association's website.

Emai Cristina Serrato at
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Send general comments to
valleystar@lavalleystar.com

Rally Trip Approved

ASU approves funds for Sacramento trip.

JONATHAN SEELEY
STAFF WRITER

The Associated Student Union voted unanimously on Tuesday to approve $8,000 of student representation funds for a trip to the Sacramento "March in March" rally at the end of the month.

The ASU is selecting 25 students to fly to Sacramento to meet legislators; the Political Action Committee will spend a day educating these students on main talking points. The March 22 rally is expected to have approximately 10,000 participants, and will be protesting cuts to education that will result in the reduction of classes, raise the cost of units to $40 per unit at Valley, and eliminate assistance programs like EOPS, CalWORKS, child care, and competitive Cal Grants.

Councilmember Anthony Portantino (D-La Cañada, Flintridge) is introducing a bill that will limit the eligibility of students to the Board of Governors fee waiver. Only students who are eligible for Pell grants will get the BOG waiver; 16,000 students get BOG waivers versus the 4,000 that get Pell grants.

"Educational budget cuts is our [the ASU] biggest fight right now," said ASU President Arthur Minasyan.

HARASSMENT

Continued from page 1

muddy."

The class was met with a pretest that examined the employees' knowledge of what constitutes sexual harassment and its definitions. The Los Angeles Community College District instituted the training in order to inform all district employees about respectful behavior in the workplace and communication in case any incidents were to take place. The training continued with a video, which gave real life scenarios of where discrimination and or sexual harassment may take place.

The non-supervisory employees have a deadline of Dec. 31, 2010 to complete the required training. Since the training is a requirement, all supervisors were notified to release classified employees in order to attend the workshop, according to Shearrill. New employees should complete the training within the first 30 days of their employment, according to the LACCD.

Employees, which are in supervisory positions, or those who have say in the hiring or firing of a staff member, are required by the State of California to complete similar training. Assembly Bill 1825, which was introduced Jan. 20, 2004, requires those in supervisory positions to fulfill at least two hours of interactive training once every two years.

Though the training taking place on campus references real life scenarios, it has nothing to do with any specific incidents that have taken place at Valley or throughout the district.

"It's a legal requirement, that training has nothing to do with anything that's happened on campus," said Vice President of Academic Affairs Sandy Mayo "Our sexual harassment policy was struck down from the courts."

The online training of both supervisors and non-supervisors can be viewed at https://secure.newmedialearning.com/psh/laccdistrict/.

VALLEY STAR CORRECTION

Last week, Issue 2, the article on Bistro 561 was inaccurately attributed to Kelly Davis, staff writer. The correct author of the review was Kate Holzhauer, staff writer.

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THE VALLEY STAR STAFF & INFO

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THE SKINNY ON BAD JEAN CHOICES

A not-so-skinny line between style and bad taste has been crossed.

CRISTINA SERRATO
STAFF WRITER

Fashion styles recycle every few decades. Unfortunately, one skeleton pulled out of style's closet is skinny jeans on men. Although the style may vary from its past counterparts, skinny jeans are here, but hopefully not to stay.

"Those shouldn't be made for boys," commented Cynthia Zeinali, nursing major.

While some fads, like the 'Hammer Pants,' never resurfaced from bygone decades, this is round number four for the skinny jeans. They had their hay-day in the '50s with the greasers, and were even sported by Elvis. The second revival was in the '70s and short-lived until the '80s where generation X teens made them funky, rad and fresh all at once. Now like a bad penny, they have made their way back into yet another decade.

"Yeah, it's really not a style I can get into. I think they just look painful," said Valley student Omero Ramirez. "How do they sit? Is that why they sag them?"

If the tight, brightly colored shirts over the tight and bright skinny jeans with neon hi-top tennis shoe aren't enough to throw one's brain into a color seizure, the boxer-briefs hanging out of the sagging snug jeans should do the trick. Perhaps the wearers suffer from Skittle envy. Perhaps they are torn between the choices of wearing the jeans, or not, so sagging is an agreeable medium.

"It's a nation-wide epidemic of bad style," commented psychology major Tenisha Young. "It's really not okay for boys' jeans to be tighter than mine."

The brightly colored masses continue to sport the skinny jean with gusto, and stores continue to mass-produce the jeans in every color, fashion, and style possible, yet I can only hope that the skinny jean will soon be a passing fad. The days before men proudly exhibited chicken legs, adorned with ankle strangling over-tight pants, are sorely missed.

TOO SEXY FOR YOUR PHONE

Apple's ban of sexy apps has gone too far.

KATE HOLZHAUER
STAFF WRITER

When examined closely, Apple's ban of over 5,000 "overtly sexual applications from its app store" appear to be about keeping profits high, not keeping their app store clean, despite what Apple executives say.

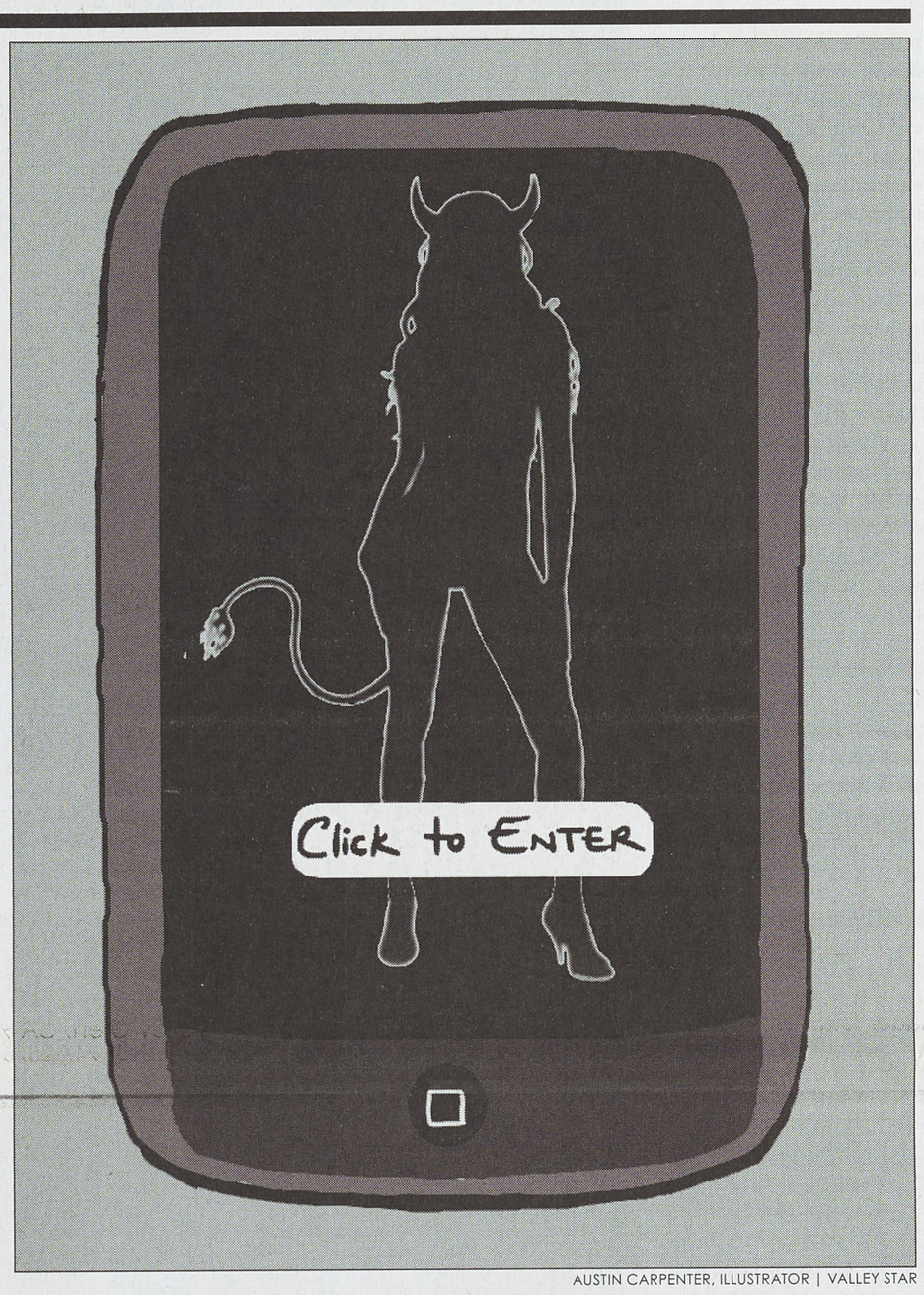
"It came to the point where we were getting customer complaints from women who found the content getting too degrading and objectionable, as well as parents who were upset with what their kids were able to see," said Apple Senior Vice President Phil Schiller.

But Schiller's words aren't lining up with Apple's actions; Apple has pulled over 5,000 "objectionable" apps from its store, from animated strip poker games to apps doing nothing more than selling swimwear and lingerie. However, apps from large adult entertainment companies such as Playboy and FHM have remained in the app store, as well as the Sports Illustrated Swimsuit Edition app. If Apple were really trying to protect its users, it would have banned these adult apps as well.

"The difference is this is a well-known company with previously published material available broadly in a well-accepted format," Schiller said.

One can argue that Sports Illustrated is first and foremost a sporting magazine, but there is no reasonable way that Apple can say that about Playboy, an empire built on the "overtly sexual content" that Apple is supposedly trying to ban.

Nobody is saying we shouldn't protect the children, but anyone who has an Apple device can access overtly sexual material through the Safari browser which is standard on much of Apple's hardware. Pornography, a $10 billion industry in the United States alone isn't going away anytime soon. What apple should do is create a protected adult section in their app store, and continue to allow adults to enjoy their explicit content, just not in front of the kids.



AUSTIN CARPENTER, ILLUSTRATOR | VALLEY STAR

Bookstore Baggage

Storing one's belongings before entering the Valley bookstore has its benefits.

CAROLINA LEON
STAFF WRITER

During the first four weeks of the semester at Valley College, everyone is asked to leave their personal belongings stored with staff members before entering the bookstore. This often upsets students for various reasons.

"I personally would not feel comfortable leaving my belongings at the bookstore with strangers," Valley student Brenda Castillo said. "It seems like such a hassle to have to go through a check point just to purchase something, whether it be big or small."

Students feeling uneasy about leaving their belongings with a stranger often try to avoid the bookstore all together. Claudette Burns, bookstore manager, was able to see both sides of the argument.

"I have mixed feelings about it, I'm a consumer and I can understand why students do not want to leave belongings with a stranger." Burns also stated, "Many of the staff members are trustworthy returning employees."

The bookstore usually has two employees handling the storage table in order to avoid any confusion and have yet to see a situation with theft. Everyone is encouraged to take their valuable belongings with them. Students are also able to use lockers located inside the bookstore for only 25 cents, but many don't.

To read the complete story visit www.lavalleystar.com

A Feline-Friendly Campus

Valley College has reduced its feral cat population through trap, neuter, and release program.

CARL ROBINETTE
STAFF WRITER

In ancient Egypt they were worshiped, in cartoons they chase mice, and at Valley College cats are welcome and well cared for. The cats that live on campus are feral, but a few people have a soft spot for the strays, which turns out to be a good thing for the campus.

The number of cats and dogs killed in Los Angeles shelters went up 25 percent between 2007-2009, according to Sheltertrak.com. Thanks to Valley's trap, neuter, and release program, or TNR, a serious dent has been put in that figure over the last few years.

"It was just bananas around here with kittens," said Tom Jacobsmeyer, vice president of administrative services, about Valley's feral cat population. "We were able to control the population with the TNR program and nothing else."

Of course opinions vary widely on the subject of what is cruelty to animals and what isn't. Some tend to think of cats as disposable, so why not just exterminate them. Certainly some just don't care one way or the other about feral cats, or don't consider them a problem. Unfortunately, Los Angeles does. In the last five years L.A. Animal Services has taken in over 100,000 cats, according to their Web site, and almost 60,000 of which were euthanized. A good chunk of the funding for this comes from taxpayers. Programs like the one at Valley are done on a volunteer basis and cost the tax payers nothing.

The number of cats euthanized in L.A. is consistent from one year to the next. To get rid of one population is to make room for another. The TNR program at Valley has driven the number of cats on campus from 160 a few years ago to 30 or 40 today, according to Jacobsmeyer.

"I think it's cool actually," said student Ivette Becerra. "We can be so selfish. It's good to do something for other living things."

It is not just an argument of animal cruelty. It is an argument of funding and effectively reducing feral cat populations. Sure, spay and neutering is costly surgery. Just putting the cat down is probably cheaper per animal, but in the long run bringing down the population would be cheaper than killing thousands of felines every year. If they had any sense, Los Angeles would take a lesson from Valley, and emphasize a TNR program over euthanizing.

MIKE ELMAN | VALLEY STAR

THE SIMPLE TRUTH...

JUSTICE COMES AT A HEFTY PRICE

More than 200 inmates received "time off for no money" in the last week.

JAMIE NORRIED

Los Angeles' own Sheriff Lee Baca recently released more than 200 inmates early from the downtown Twin Towers facility—to the disgust of some, but to the delight of my pocket book.

Most law-abiding citizens fear early release. But keep in mind these are non-violent offenders. These are guys who drive drunk, "street pharmacists" and their fiending followers, and those who fail to appear in court for traffic tickets—things of that nature.

"... the non-violent prisoners, are the ones who are the least likely to run back out and harm society, and so we're doing a probative assessment of their records and releasing non-violent people," said Baca in an ABC News interview.

We should be less afraid of dying in a DUI car crash or getting mugged for drug money than the taxes we'll pay to cover the cost of these "criminals" if they're not released.

According to the L.A. County Sheriff's Department, as of August 2004, the average cost to house an inmate at the Men's Central Jail (part of the Twin Towers facility) is approximately $61.21 per day. Currently, the inmate capacity of MCJ is approximately 6,750. That cost is equal to $413,167.50 per day, or just more than $150 million per year, courtesy of our taxes.

"Early release is a mockery of the justice system," said Mike Antonovich, supervisor of L.A. County's 5th district and longtime critic of early releases. "Criminals are sent to jail to serve time for a crime, not a merry-go-round ride back to the streets."

Don't worry, Antonovich, you'll get them back; the entire *justice* system is a revolving door. According to a California Department of Corrections study of recidivism, of 54,844 felons paroled in 2003, 57 percent had been re-incarcerated by March of 2008.

Baca maintains that, in good times, inmates serve 80 percent, but those who have been through the system know that's generally not true.

What many people don't know about the "justice" system is that when a judge sentences an offender, most don't serve the full term of their sentence. When an offender goes to jail, the sheriff's department has authority to change the sentence—to either add or subtract time. Non-violent offenders in L.A. County are most likely sentenced to less than one year, and will even more likely serve only 10 to 25 percent of that, depending on the current jail population.

Inmates currently benefiting from the budget crunch are getting "time off for no money," and will be back to smoking weed and tagging billboards in no time.

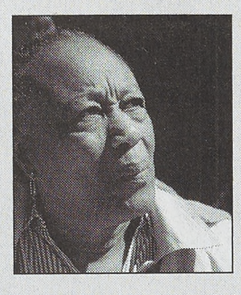
E-mail Jamie Norried at *j.norried@lavalleystar.com*
Send general comments to *valleystar@lavalleystar.com*

VALLEY VIEW | 200 NON-VIOLENT OFFENDERS WERE REALESED DUE TO BUDGET CUTS, HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THAT?

"They're non-violent, I don't see the problem."
- CARLOS MENJIBAR
CINEMA

"I think alot of people who were in for drug offenses shouldn't be there, they should be in rehab."
- VALERIE PILKEVICH
ASTROPHYSICS

"I feel like it's pretty much Arnold Schwarzenegger's fault, because he made all these budget cuts."
- LINDSEY HEATH
CINEMA


"Well if they're non-violent offenders, yeah I'd rather spend the money on education."
- CHERYL MARTIN
NURSING

"I'm not gonna give you a yes or no answer because that is too general of a question."
- DANIEL MAITI
PHARMACY

LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK

Letters to the editor can be sent to editor@lavalleystar.com or submitted online at www.lavalleystar.com. Letters must be limited to 300 words and may be edited for content. Full name and contact information must be supplied in order for letters to be printed. Send by Thursday for the following week's issue.

LAVC Events

Feb. 25 - April 15
Monday - Thursday
11 a.m. - 2 p.m. & 6 - 9 p.m.
"No Laughing Matter: Art and Humor in Southern California (a Modest Sampling)"
Exhibition presented by the LAVC Art Gallery
(Art Gallery) FREE
Contact: (818) 778-5536

March
Wednesday, 10th
ASU Club Day
Sponsored by the Associated Student Union
@ 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. (Monarch Square)
Contact: Associated Student Union (818) 778-5516

Speech Team Showcase
Sponsored by the LAVC Speech Team
@ 6 - 8 p.m. (Fireside Room)
Contact: Duane Smith (818) 778-5537

Saturday, 13th
Summer in Paris Study Program Information Meeting
Sponsored by LAVC Study Away
@ 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. (Foreign Language 102)
Contact: Dominique Merrill (818) 947-2380

Monday, 15th
"Pathways to Success: How to Get Where You're Going" workshop
Sponsored by STARS
@ 1 - 2:30 p.m. (Fireside Room); RSVP required
Contact: STARS (818) 947-2712

! THINK TRANSFER

CSUN Free Bus Trip,
Friday, March 12th
From 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Sign up now.

March
Wednesday, 10th
Undecided Major/Career Workshop
@ 1 - 2 p.m.
CSU Northridge Rep
@ 4 - 7 p.m.

Thursday, 11th
Careers in Emergency Services Workshop
@ 1 - 2:30 p.m. (FL 102)

Job Shadow Orientation Workshops
@ 1 - 2 p.m. and
@ 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Undecided Major/Career Workshop
@ 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Monday, 15th
CSU Northridge Rep.
@ 9 a.m. - Noon

Tuesday, 16th
How to Transfer Workshop
@ 1 - 2 p.m.

All events held in the Career/Transfer Center (Administration 126) unless otherwise indicated.

For Sign-up and further information
Call (818) 947-2646.

DR. CHAULS GIVES ANDREW LLOYD WEBER A RUN FOR HIS MONEY

Valley College music department performs "Phantom of the Opera."

DAVID MOTTE
STAFF WRITER

Valley College Music Professor Robert Chauls led a noteworthy group of vocalists in his own musical adaptation of "Phantom of the Opera" Wednesday afternoon.

The Music Recital Hall was transformed into the Opera de Paris of the late 1800s as Dr.Chauls performed his melodious score on piano, while a cast of six, including the music department's own Michael Arshagouni and Glenn Carlos, portrayed the famous characters with soaring voices. Condensed to just two short acts comprised of nine songs, the performance was an entertaining synopsis of the classic story.

"What you heard today was maybe one-third of the musical numbers from the whole show," Chauls said. "The end of Act One was only two out of 12 pages [of the sheet music]."

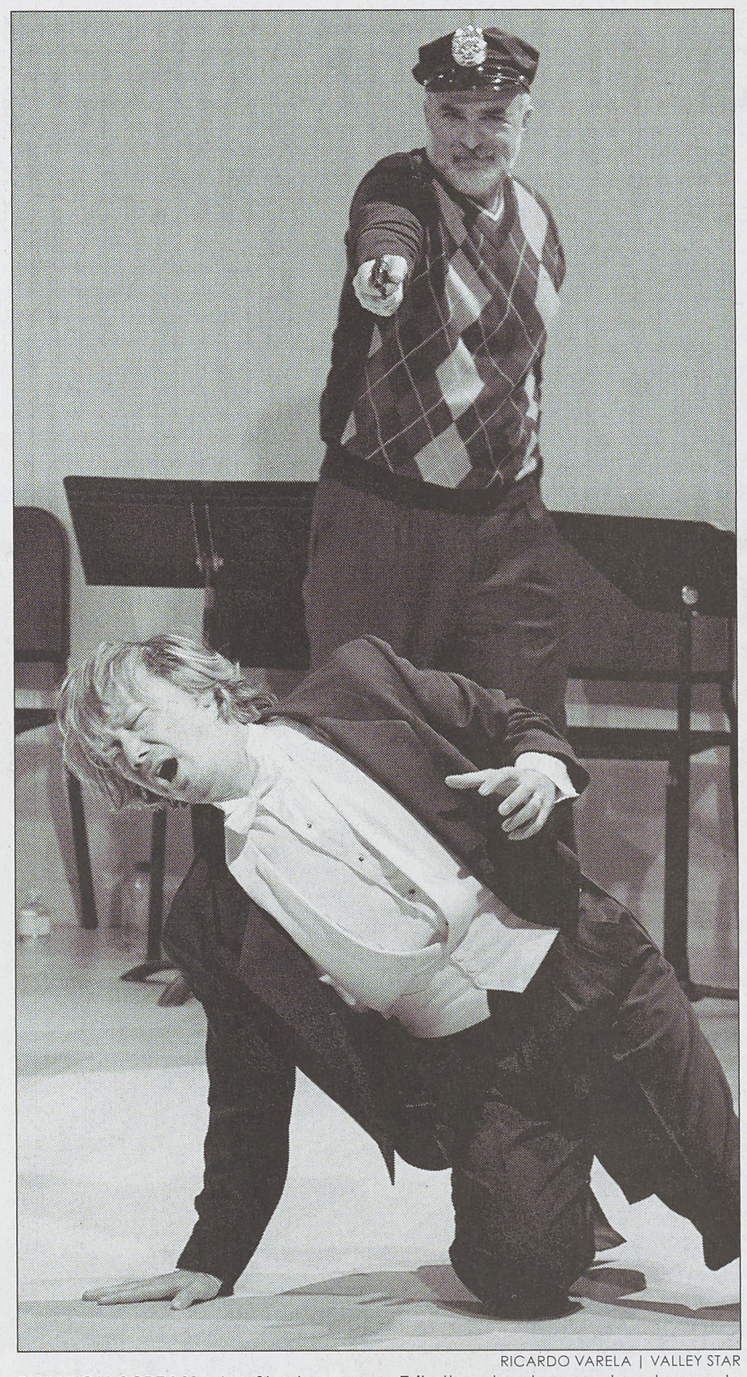
Chauls started writing his adaptation of "Phantom" in the early '80s, but the project was aborted after word spread that Andrew Lloyd Webber was working on his now-famous interpretation of the piece which came out in 1986.

"We had just dropped it when we heard Andrew Lloyd Webber was doing the same story." He said

Luckily for the diverse crowd in attendance, Chauls' "Phantom of the Opera" was resurrected to initiate Valley's Free Concert Wednesdays sponsored by the music department. With performances worthy of the Metropolitan Opera, the musical took a captivated audience through the story of a masked villain who lurks in the rafters of an old Parisian opera house, extorting money from the management and occasionally killing unsuspecting crew members. The Phantom becomes infatuated with a newly arrived chorus girl and tries to woo her by pretending to be the Angel of Music and offering to teach her "a little bit of heaven's music." The only thing missing from Jay Stephenson's performance (Erik, a.k.a. The Phantom), was a gigantic chandelier on which he could swing into rafters to make a swift escape into darkness.

"The performance was wonderful," said student Ian Krupp. "Dr. Chauls did a great job of interpreting the story for a broader audience."

Free Concert Wednesdays will take place every Wednesday at 1 p.m. in the Music Recital Hall inside the Music building. All upcoming performances are listed on the music department's calendar and can be viewed at www.lavc.edu/music.



RICARDO VARELA | VALLEY STAR
PHANTOM SCREAM - Jay Stephenson as Erik, the phantom, makes demands at the top of his lungs during Act One of last Wednesday's performance of The Phantom of the Opera in the Music Recital Hall.

NURSE SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Valley College not only pays for education but guarantees employment for students participating in the Nurse Scholars Program.

KELLY DAVIS
STAFF WRITER

For students interested in a career in nursing, Valley College's Nurse Scholars Program provides a way to guarantee a position in the work field, which is becoming harder and harder to find work in.

Valley has teamed up with COPE Health Solutions and Valley Presbyterian Hospital to create the Nurse Scholars Program, which is funded by a $1.4 million grant from the UniHealth Foundation. Recently, 16 Valley students became the first graduating class to participate in the program. The students not only received full scholarships, they were also guaranteed full-time positions at Valley Presbyterian Hospital upon completion of the program.

"The program is very valuable because it pays for nursing school. I was also promised a job after graduation so I didn't have to worry about looking for employment," says Jeniffer Corado.

Corado, one of the 16 initial graduates, had a great experience with the program. She was provided with a mentor who walked her through any problems and issues as well as a hospital where she was able to do her clinical rotations and get to know the hospital staff.

"Overall, I believe that it is a great opportunity with lots of benefits," says the graduate.

David Zoltan, manager of the Health Workforce Transformation at COPE Health Solutions, states that one of the main benefits is the connection that the nursing students are able to develop with the hospital, staff, and educators at Valley Presbyterian Hospital.

"As the recently graduated Nurse Scholars are beginning their hospital orientation, there seems to be an automatic comfort level that would be difficult to develop without their being a part of the Nurse Scholars Program," Zoltan says.

To apply for the program, students must have completed all nursing school prerequisites, and supply references and school transcripts. Students must also be current hospital staff or Clinical Care Extender interns as well as sign a contract with Valley Presbyterian, committing to work at the hospital for a minimum of three years after graduation.

Twelve more Valley students are set to graduate in December 2010. Students that are interested in becoming a part of the Nurse Scholars Program can contact Health Science Department Chair, Mary Cox at coxma@lavc.edu.

WHERE THERE'S SMOKE, THERE'S BARBECUE

Succulent barbecue in the heart of the NOHO arts District.

KATE HOLZHAUER
STAFF WRITER

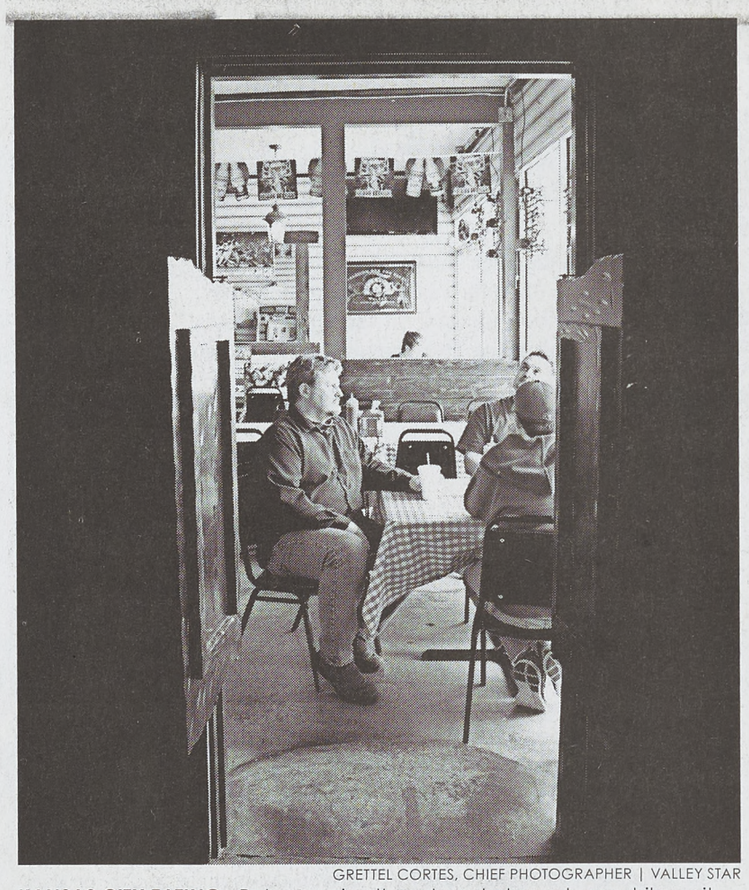
It is easier to find The Kansas City BBQ Company with your nose than your eyes. From the outside, it is just a sports bar shoved into the corner of a quiet North Hollywood strip mall. But the rich smells of meat being smoked over a hardwood fire are enough to draw hungry diners from all over the valley into the sports-bar-turned-barbecue-joint, and the food is good enough to keep them coming back.

The menu at The Kansas City BBQ Company is a fairly standard menu by barbecue standards: chicken, beef, and pork in various incarnations and a handful of sides. The Burnt Ends sandwich, a mixture of beef and pork swimming in Kansas City BBQ's slightly spicy barbecue sauce, is the barbecue equivalent to the Sloppy Joe – messy, fun, and satisfying.

The ribs, both pork and beef, are well seasoned and tender, though the pork ribs are slightly more succulent and receptive to the barbecue sauce and seasoning better than the beef, making them the better choice. While the whole and half chickens are flavorful, they are particularly dry. The shredded chicken, which is cooked until completely tender and then tossed in sauce, is the moister, more palatable chicken choice. The only meat option that is fairly forgettable is the hot link. It's not that the hot link isn't tasty, it's just a waste to get a sausage one can easily find at any hot dog joint.

While the meat selection at The Kansas City BBQ Company is varied and delicious, its side dishes are hit or miss. The sweet potato fries are delicious, especially when slightly overcooked, and the barbecue beans, which are more meat than beans, are delicious. But the potato salad tastes like it could have been bought at the grocery store deli across the street, and the pickles, which come on every plate, are a splash of color better seen than eaten.

The Kansas City BBQ Company is open 11 a.m. to 11 p.m., early enough for a quick lunch, and late enough for dinner after late classes. The sandwiches make a filling but messy lunch, especially when doused in the delicious signature barbecue sauce, and the dinners are big enough to share or to be the next day's lunch as well. While the restaurant is not pretty, it is not without its charms. There is no beautiful artwork on the smoke-stained, wood-paneled walls, but the combination of flat-screen TVs and meat make The Kansas City BBQ Company as ideal for a game-day hangout as it is for a lunch-time jaunt.



GRETTEL CORTES, CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER | VALLEY STAR
KANSAS CITY EATING - Patrons enjoy the relaxed atmosphere while waiting for thier meals.

GRETTEL CORTES, CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER | VALLEY STAR
GOOD EATS - At the Kansas City BBQ, a perfect Burnt Ends sandwich is just an order away.

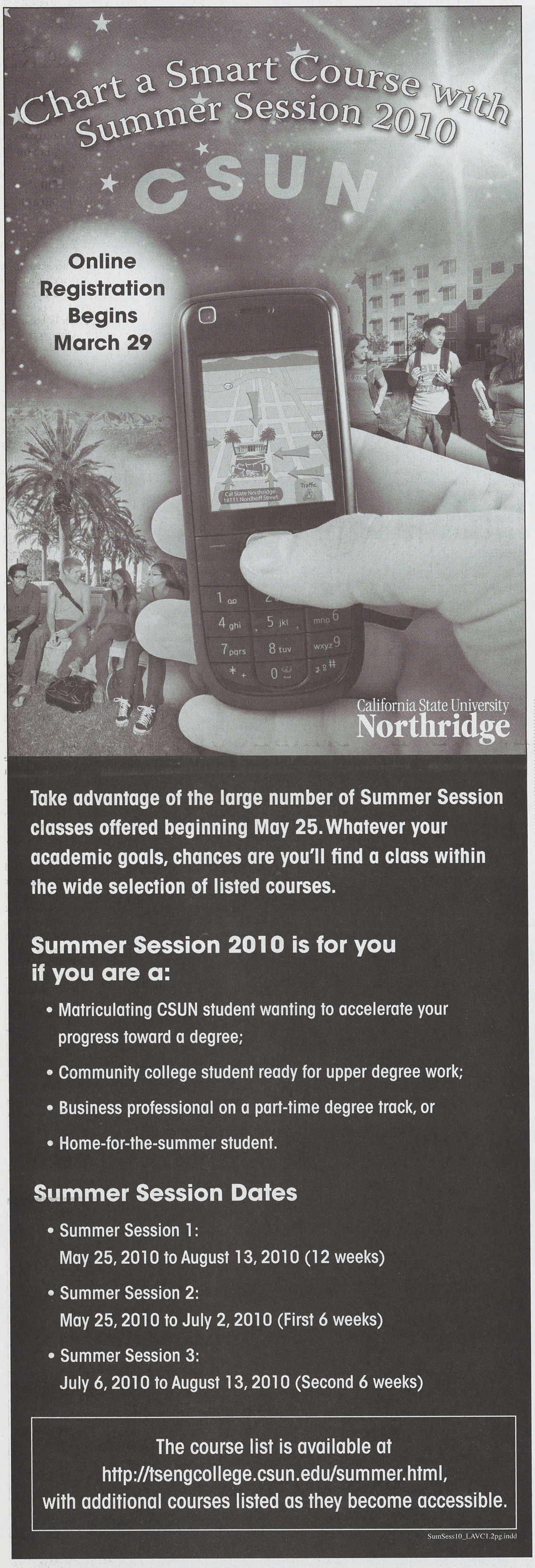


Chart a Smart Course with Summer Session 2010
CSUN
Online Registration Begins March 29
Cal State Northridge
18111 Nordhoff Street
Traffic
California State University
Northridge
Take advantage of the large number of Summer Session classes offered beginning May 25. Whatever your academic goals, chances are you'll find a class within the wide selection of listed courses.
Summer Session 2010 is for you if you are a:
• Matriculating CSUN student wanting to accelerate your progress toward a degree;
• Community college student ready for upper degree work;
• Business professional on a part-time degree track, or
• Home-for-the-summer student.
Summer Session Dates
• Summer Session 1:
May 25, 2010 to August 13, 2010 (12 weeks)
• Summer Session 2:
May 25, 2010 to July 2, 2010 (First 6 weeks)
• Summer Session 3:
July 6, 2010 to August 13, 2010 (Second 6 weeks)
The course list is available at
http://tsengcollege.csun.edu/summer.html,
with additional courses listed as they become accessible.
SumSess10_LAVC1.2pg.indd

CHOOSING A CAREER

"Choose a career you love and you will never work a day in your life."

KELLY DAVIS
STAFF WRITER

The most important decision a college student will make is often the most difficult and most delayed. According to Valley College's Office of Research and Planning, 65 percent of enrolled students have yet to decide on a major, and 17 percent are unsure of their educational goals. This is due in part to self-doubt, lack of information, peer influence, fear, and parental pressures.

Confucius said, "Choose a career you love and you will never work a day in your life."

While students who are unwilling, unable, or unready to make a career decision can end up racking up thousands of dollars in student debts, the openness to options can lead to students having a better opportunity of choosing the right major and career path.

Valley student, Sargis K. is undecided on a major, but says Valley has provided him with all the information he needs to eventually make the decision.

"I want to go to law school so I will probably major in history or political science, maybe English," said Sargis.

Valley offers many opportunities for students to take an active role in the personal and intimate process of deciding on a major. In the coming months, there are a number of activities and programs on campus designed to assist students in making what very well could be the most important decision of their life.

On Thursday, March 11, from 1 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., Valley will be holding an orientation for those who wish to participate in the nationally sponsored, Job Shadow Day. The National Job Shadow Coalition encourages students to explore their futures through career awareness and mentoring opportunities.

Additionally, every Thursday through the beginning of May, Valley will sponsor the Career Speaker Workshop Series in Room 102 of the Foreign Language building, where students can learn about the careers that interest them from an expert in that field. March 11 will focus on careers in emergency services, the following week will focus on careers in healthcare, April 15 will be careers in law, followed by a presentation on green careers. April 29 will be entertainment careers, and the final speaker series will focus on careers in science, technology, engineering, and math.

The Career Transfer Center will also be hosting day trips to various universities for students to tour the campuses. The CSUN tour will be Mar. 19, the UCSB tour will be April 23 and the UCLA tour will be April 30.

Finally, career seminars will be held every Wednesday from 1 p.m. – 2 p.m. and every Thursday from 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. More information on all events can be obtained in the Administration building, Room 126. The more informed students are, the less agonizing it will be for them when they make this difficult, life-changing decision.

TWO CENTS FROM SPENCE

BIGMOUTH STRIKES BACK

The 82nd Academy Awards didn't go quite as planned, but that's okay.

JOSH SPENCE

By now I'm sure there are many faithful readers of this column that have realized that I was only a robust two-for-five in the major category picks for the 82nd Annual Academy Awards.

For me to cry "foul" regarding the winners and how the system is somehow rigged in some capacity would be complete sour grapes.

But consider this….

During Mo'Nique's acceptance speech for winning best supporting actress, she succinctly thanked the academy for giving her the award based on "performance and not the politics." While I would say that is a valid point, I also think that statement was made because she won. Had she lost, I doubt Mo' would say that Vera Farmiga won because she clearly had the better performance.

The point is this: Mo'Nique had a 20 percent chance of winning the award, as did Penelope Cruz, as did Maggie Gyllenhaal, Anne Kendrick, and Farmiga. To be in that rarified air of being nominated out of the hundreds of films made every year is the true honor. The win is completely political.

Yes, Mo'Nique did give a brilliant performance. But the groundswell of hype surrounding her performance was larger than her fellow nominees. If politics weren't an issue, there would be considerably less ad space on Variety, TheEnvelope.com, and every other movie industry/insider paper in Los Angeles. To simply deny the hype and politics that surrounds these movies and these award shows is ignorant.

Take a film like "The Hurt Locker." I can honestly say that I was one of five people in a theater to see this film when it was in its first run in the arthouse cinemas. It is a good, relevant, action drama film, but not a film that people flocked to see. Come Oscar time, not only was "The Hurt Locker" the big winner but in some cases expected to win, all because of hype and politics.

This isn't to say that "The Hurt Locker" didn't deserve the award, I'm just saying that without the hype surrounding that or "An Education" or "A Serious Man," no one would know or eventually see these films.

The politics surrounding these awards are not only a part of the movie industry, but are a primary reason these films find a wider audience.

The concept of returning the best picture category from five nominees to 10 is overtly political. The idea of expansion was solely to shine a light on more independent films that would have been lost amidst a sea of big budget blockbusters like "Avatar." If you even take a look at the nominees, seven of the the ten films were released on small independent film lables like Sony Pictures Classics, a small artsy subsidiary of Sony Pictures that make films solely for the intent of garnering Oscar considersation. But that's not political whatsoever.

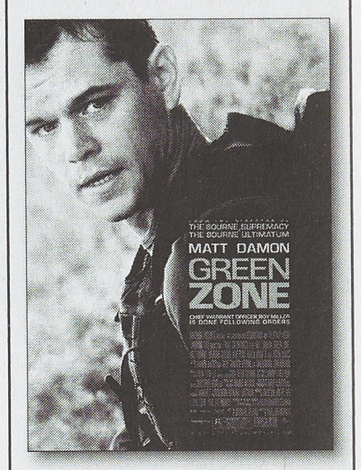
So you can say that the best picture won. In my humble opinion it did not, and that's fine that there is disagreement. The point is there is now discussion among films no one would otherwise know about. All thanks to politics.

...I'm just saying.

E-mail Josh Spence at
co-editor@lavalleystar.com
Send general comments to
valleystar@lavalleystar.com

@THE MOVIES

OPENING THIS WEEKEND



GREEN ZONE

MATT DAMON

TOP 5 PLAYING:

- *ALICE IN WONDERLAND*: $116.1M+
- *BROOKLYN'S FINEST*: $13.3M+
- *SHUTTER ISLAND*: $13.2M+
- *COP OUT*: $9.2M+
- *AVATAR*: $8.1M+

MEDIA RELEASES

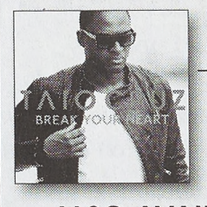
DVD

UP IN THE AIR

ALSO AVAILABLE:

- *CAPITALISM: A LOVE STORY*
- *PRECIOUS*
- *PLANET 51*
- *OLD DOGS*

SONGS TOP DOWNLOADS



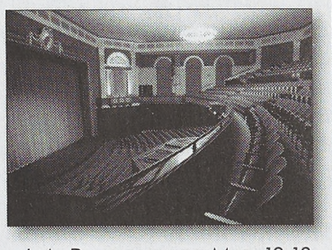
TAIO CRUZ

BREAK YOUR HEART (FEAT. LUDACRIS)

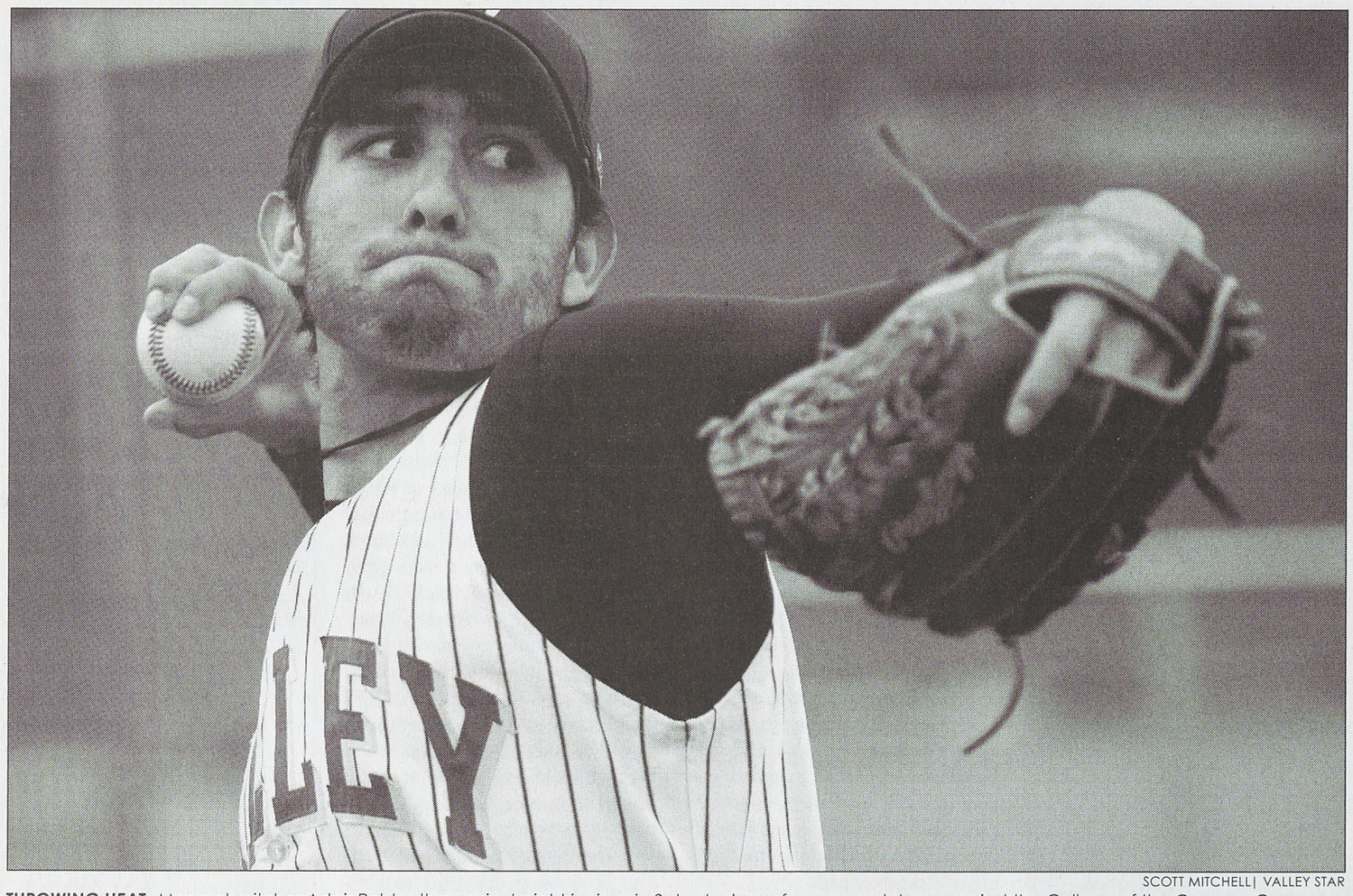
ALSO AVAILABLE:

- RIHANNA - *RUDE BOY*
- TRAIN - *HEY, SOUL SISTER*
- BLACK EYED PEAS - *IMMA BE*
- LADY ANTEBELLUM - *NEED YOU NOW*

CONCERTS & THEATRE



- *L.A. PHILHARMONICS: MAR. 12-13 WALT DISNEY CONCERT HALL*
- *JAMES TAYLOR & CAROLE KING: MAR. 13-15 HOLLYWOOD BOWL*
- *CATS: MAR. 10-14 PANTAGES THEATRE*
- *DREAM GIRLS: MAR. 10-14 AHMANSON THEATRE*
- *THE SUBJECT WAS ROSES: MAR. 10-14 MARKER TAPER FORUM*
- *THROUGH THE NIGHT: MAR. 16 GEFFEN PLAYHOUSE*
- *THE CLEAN UP WOMAN: MAR. 16 WILSHIRE EBELL*
- *A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE FORUM: MAR. 16 FREUD PLAYHOUSE @ UCLA*



SCOTT MITCHELL| VALLEY STAR

THROWING HEAT- Monarch pitcher Adair Robles throws six straight innings in Saturday's conference match-up against the College of the Canyons Cougars.

MONARCHS FOCUS ON CONFERENCE

In their first conference game of the season Saturday, the Monarchs stop a 10-game losing streak.

GIOVANNI GARCIA
STAFF WRITER

With the bases fully loaded, down by one in the bottom of the ninth, last Saturday, infielder Miguel Cejas doubled, bringing in two runners to defeat College of the Canyons 6-5. The victory, which came just at the right time, ended the Monarchs ten-game losing streak in their first conference game of the season.

"I was looking for a middle lane pitch or hit a fly ball to get a runner in." said Cejas.

Starting the third inning down by two runs, the Monarchs answered back with a three-run homerun shot by third basemen and pitcher, Josh Goosen-Brown.

The game would remain tied until the bottom of the fifth. A wild pitch from the Cougars resulted in a stolen home base by Brown, giving the Monarchs a 4-2 lead over the Cougars.

The Monarchs had no errors to the Canyons' three throughout the game and would help in deciding the final score, but not without a fight from the visiting side. After a scoreless sixth inning, College of the Canyons was able to tie the game at the top of the seventh 4-4.

The score remained tied until the top of the ninth when the Cougar offense put another run on the board, giving them a 5-4 lead heading into the bottom of the inning. The bases loaded and with one out, Cejas hit the gap, scoring Oscar Soriano and Chris Viltz to win the game.

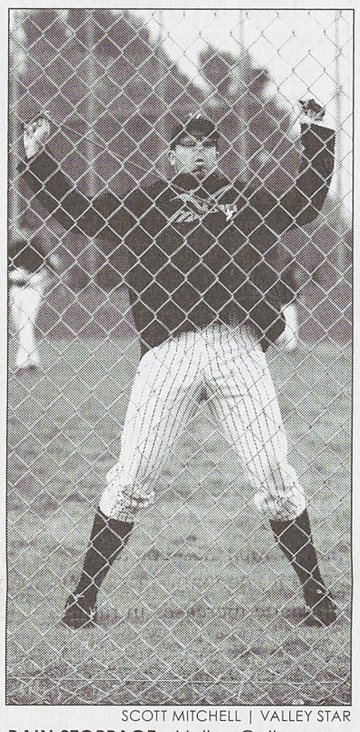
"It's our time … we had a tough pre-season," said Goosen-Brown.

Adair Robles, the Monarchs starting pitcher, was able to strike out eight Cougar batters, despite a short game stoppage after the third inning due to the rain.

"He was pulling the turf on and off the field, we stopped for a moment because of the rain, it's pretty mentally tough for a pitcher to be doing all that … he gave us his best and a chance to win and that's all we ask for." said Monarch Head Coach Dave Mallas.

The win gives the Monarchs an overall record of 1-10-1 but most importantly they are 1-0 in the conference putting them in first place.

The Monarchs' next game will be held this Saturday against Citrus College. Citrus has a record of (9-4,0-1) and will host the Monarchs in the upcoming game.



SCOTT MITCHELL | VALLEY STAR

RAIN STOPPAGE - Valley College pitcher Noah Hershewe staying loose during a temporary break from the game, due to rain in the third inning. Play would resume and the Monarchs beat the Cougars 6-5 on a 2- run shot in the bottom of the ninth.

For the Love of Green

Coach Frankie Garcia professes her undying love for softball.

CRISTINA SERRATO
STAFF WRITER

Francis (Frankie) Garcia has loved softball since she was seven years old. It's an undying, unconditional love which she has nurtured through the years, playing every chance she got and now coaching every chance she is given.

"Wow. Softball was in my blood from the second I stepped on the field," grinned Garcia. She laughed, "It was like love at first sight and it has never gone away."

Raised in South Gate, Calif., Garcia spent much of her childhood playing softball at South Gate Park where she was coached by parents of her teammates learning the importance of encouragement. Garcia loves to play, she loves that her parents allowed her to play and gave her "a ton" of parental support. She is an admitted softball fanatic for life.

"Her coaching is intense, but we learn a lot. She always has our best interest in mind," said first-year shortstop Barbara Torres. "Everything is done to better us."

Garcia has been coaching since 1995, including one pro-league season in the summer. She shared the title of Head Coach at Fullerton College for five years where she twice lead the team to state conference finals. The team also made it to regional finals every year under her guidance. In 2003, Garcia came to Valley.

"I think she's an awesome coach and I'm glad that I was given the opportunity to come back and coach with her," said former player and Assistant Coach Lorena Arreguine.

Garcia, like many of the other coaches at Valley believes that being a student comes before winning. She wants all her students to be student athletes and requires nothing but the best out of her players.

"She's a good person and she helps with anything like homework or anyway she can. She gives us rides to practice and brings us snacks," commented third baseman Samantha Suarez. "The coach is just a good person."

During practice, Garcia can be heard making comments like, "Good job," "Way to dive in for it" and dry remarks like, "Life would be easier with good throws." All practices end with the young ladies being encouraged by a few pats on their backs. The exhausted players part with smiles.

"The goal every game is to get better than we were. In and out of the uniform we need to get better everyday," said Garcia.

She has been here since 2003 and has been dedicated to taking Valley to state finals ever since.

"I think we can go all the way," commented Samantha Suarez. "[If] We keep working hard and practicing this hard, we'll go to state."

VARUGHAN CHAPANIAN | VALLEY STAR

BORN TO PLAY - Head Coach Frankie Garcia conducting practice.

Valley Duels Pierce at Home Swim Meet

The men's and women's swim teams both competed last Friday against the Pierce College Bulls, here on campus.

IVAN ZUNIGA
STAFF WRITER

Not the brightest of days for the Valley College swim team who competed against Pierce College last Friday. That did not stop the Monarchs and a crowd of about 30 people who showed their support for a spring sport, which endured winter weather conditions.

The Monarch men's and women's swim teams competed in a variety of dual events from meter diving, medley and individual relay. The men won 150-69, while the women fell short, losing 79-154. Each event is scored by each lane; the top eight finishers score points.

The first event win for the Monarchs was from Molina Eduardo in the 3-meter diving match, who placed first with a time of 117.15. At this point the women's team fell behind as they failed to place first in any of the events, but the lady Monarchs still pushed through and were able to place good times in the 200-yard medley relay (2:12:48) and 1,000-yard freestyle (12:36:49).

"Even though the score discrepancy is so great," said Mike Santo, Valley women's head coach. "Up to this point I would say the majority of the girls have bettered their times this spring, which is very significant."

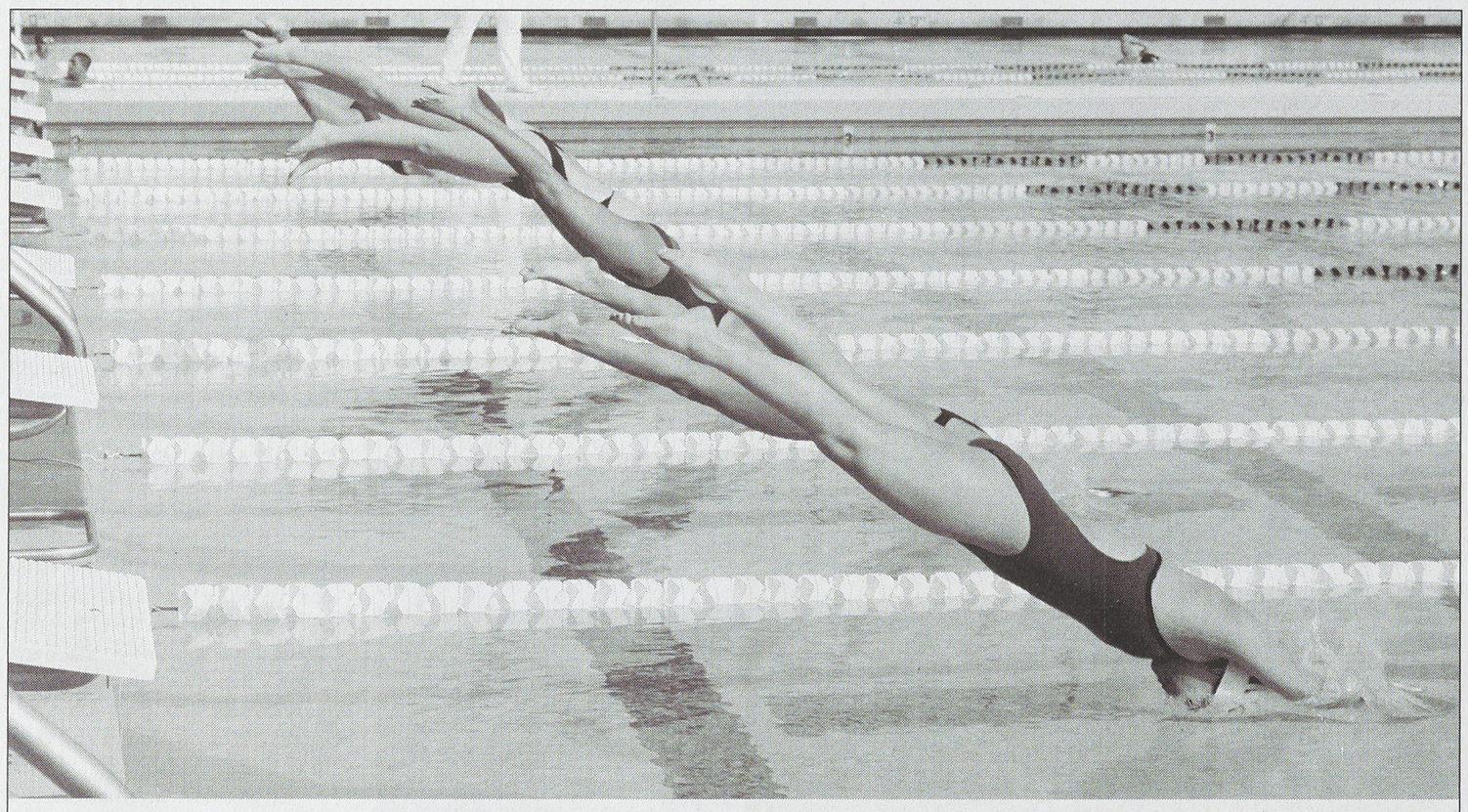
The men's swim team breezed through each event as they placed first in 12 out 16 events defeating the Pierce College Bulls. Placing impressive times in the men's medley relay (3:44:06), 1,000-yard freestyle (10:44:93) and the men's 400-yard freestyle relay with the final time of 3:32:18 ending the series of events for the men's portion of the game.

"At this stage of the year we are getting better each day, we are scheduled to have a decent season as long as we keep practicing and getting a little better," said men's Head Coach Jim McMillan.

Although the women's team lost most of their matches, they still gave a good amount of effort in each event as they finished their matches, placing second in 100-yard freestyle (1:04:42), 500-yard freestyle (6:08:60) and 100-yard breaststroke (1:21:28).

The Monarchs swim team will compete again March 19 at Valley in the Western State Conference Quads #2.

For more information and photos on the swim meet please visit us online @ www.lavalleystar.com.



VARUGHAN CHAPANIAN| VALLEY STAR

DIVING FOR VICTORY- During the swim meet last Friday, members of the Pierce and Valley women's teams compete in one of the many events held.

MONARCH SCHEDULES

Men's Baseball:
Thursday Mar. 11th
vs. Citrus
@ Valley 2:30 p.m.

Saturday Mar. 13th
@ Citrus 1:00 p.m.

Tuesday Mar. 16th
vs. Pierce
@ Valley 2:30 p.m.

Women's Baseball:
Thursday Mar. 11th
vs. Canyons
@ Valley 2:30 p.m.

Tuesday Mar. 16th
@ Glendale 2:30 p.m.

Swimming & Diving
Friday Mar. 19th
@ Valley 2:30 p.m. WSC Quads #2.

Saturday Mar. 27th
@ Ventura 10:00 a.m.
WSC Quads #3.

Track & Field
Friday Mar. 12th
@ Occidental College
6:00 p.m.
Oxy Distance Carnival.

Saturday Mar. 13th
@ CSUN 9:00 a.m.
Northridge Invitational.

VALLEY SPLITS GAMES IN DOUBLE-HEADER

In their first two conference games, the Monarchs split victories with the visiting L.A Mission Eagles.

LUCAS THOMPSON
MANAGING EDITOR

SAMUEL OKSNER, PHOTO EDITOR | VALLEY STAR

The cold crisp air and violent gusts of wind, at times, made fastballs look like change-ups. The weather, however, gave neither team the advantage, as both L.A Mission and Valley College began their conference play at 1-1.

"Well there's only one way that can happen, and that's if the wind and the cold stop for them," Head Coach Frankie Garcia said of the poor weather conditions.

The first of the two games gave Valley and starting pitcher Belen Benitez a 4-5 victory over Mission. The second, however, would not turn out the same.

The Monarchs started their offense early with multiple base runners and a 1-0 lead over L.A Mission. Valley kept the lead through three innings, two of which were three and outs for the Valley defense. A ground ball hit by Mission's Alyssa Arriza resulted in Samantha Durazo's score, tying the game at the top of the 4th inning.

As starting Eagles pitcher Jackie Villatara held the Monarchs at one run, the Mission offense picked up the pace at the top of the 5th inning. A double by center fielder Diane Ravago and a homerun from left fielder Samantha Durazo gave the Eagles a comfortable 5-1 lead heading into the remainder of the game.

"I think it's just us," Valley catcher Madison Urena said. "We weren't hitting very well (in the second game)."

Two key errors from Mission in the bottom of the 6th assisted Valley in scoring two runs, making the score 3-5 heading into the 7th inning. Strong defense from both teams defined the rest of the game, giving the Eagles a 5-3 victory over Valley.

Time to adjust against Valley pitcher Belen Benitez for the first and second games contributed to the Eagles win in the second, according to Mission Head Coach Sandra Durazo.

The Monarchs, which have won ten out of their 16 previous games, start conference with one win and one loss. Their third conference game takes place tomorrow against the visiting College of the Canyons Cougars.

Although losing their second game yesterday against the eagles, the Monarchs and Coach Garcia are as always only looking to improve.

"The only thing that we do every single day is get better," Garcia said. "We didn't play badly so we're just gonna keep on getting better and that's our goal … we're gonna get better, that's the bottom line."

TOP - Mission pitcher Jackie Villatara, throws to Monarch batter Erzy Perez in the second game of Tuesday's double-header.

RIGHT - Valley pitcher Belen Benitez throws to a Mission batter in the Monarchs second conference game. Benitez pitched both games Tuesday for a total of 14 innings. Valley starts conference 1-1.

SAMUEL OKSNER, PHOTO EDITOR | VALLEY STAR

ANALYZE THIS

FOR BASKETBALL, THE ONLY WAY UP IS DOWN

As the NCAA contemplates adding 32 teams to March Madness, one thing is certain: football ratings are soaring.

LUCAS THOMPSON

Since 1985, after the NCAA Men's Division 1 Tournament expanded from 48 teams to 64 teams, the lowest seed to win the National title was #8-ranked Villanova. As if this were not discouraging enough for the other 58 teams in the tournament, the NCAA is now trying to expand once more, this time to 96 teams.

"I think it would be good to increase the number because there are quality players who would love to play in that game," Valley Head Basketball Coach Virgil Watson said. "I think it's great, when you walk into the arena everyone thinks they have a chance."

I get it. Added revenue, and more teams are happy. But no one cares about making people happy, especially the networks that are looking for ratings.

Over the last three decades the NCAA tournament finals have seen a drop of about 10 million viewers, from 30 million to around 20 million. From 2006-2008 the finals saw an average of 18.9 million views, a number that is partly due to a slight drop from '07-'08. The tournament's answer to the equation: add more teams.

Coincidentally college football, which has cut teams in the current economic crisis, has seen dramatic increases in ratings. Just this past year, a 72-year Hofstra football program cut their program altogether due to budget constraints. Northeastern also terminated their program Nov. 23 2009, according to The New York Times. This in conjunction with the Humanitarian Bowl, which saw a 218 percent increase in viewers from last year's game, and the Hawaii Bowl, that saw a 119 percent increase, according to Nielsen.

But this is not a new development. The NBA and MLB have been struggling to keep up with the NFL for years now. The fact is people just don't have time to watch 900 games every season, and the advertisers who bid on the networks' commercial times aren't targeting the guy who does have the time anyway.

This plan of adding 32 more teams, on top of being a revenue scheme destined for failure, is an injustice to the kids. Since 1985 the #1 seed has played and beaten the #16 team a hundred times. This is the #16 seed we are talking about here. This is a seeded team in one of college's most prestigious tournaments where the cinderella team can win… unfortunately not. The #2 seed has beaten the #15 seed 96 times, the #3 seed has beaten #14 85 times and the lowest seed to even break into the final four since 1979 was ranked #11. All leading to one final conclusion, if you're not in the top eight you have no chance.

The addition of the 32-teams looks inevitable for next season's tournament. Unfortunately, it will be just another step in the wrong direction for college basketball and its steadily declining viewers.

As more teams become "happy" and you begin to fill out your brackets, one thing is certain; college football and the NFL will contine to add nothing more than revenue and viewers.

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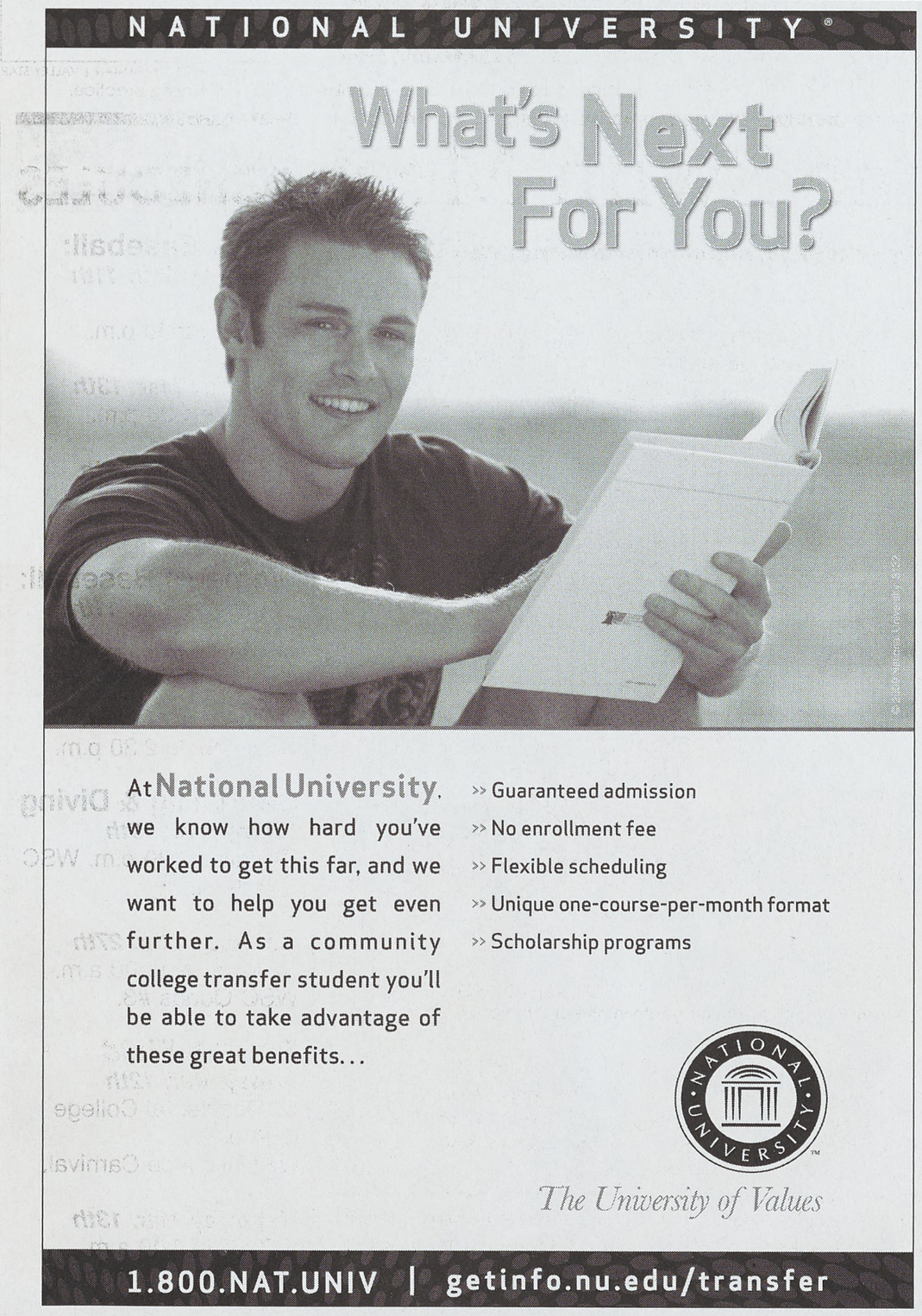
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TOP LEFT - Valley student Clay Gallardo takes a moment to greet a fellow protester as they stood in solidarity.

TOP RIGHT - Leon Areallo from the Boyle Heights Corazon del Pueblo cultural center came out to protest recent budget cuts to California Schools.

ABOVE LEFT - Rocio Benites spends the day on the corner of Fulton Street and Burbank Boulevard holding signs.

ABOVE RIGHT - Dozens of speakers addressed a crowd of thousands of protesters.

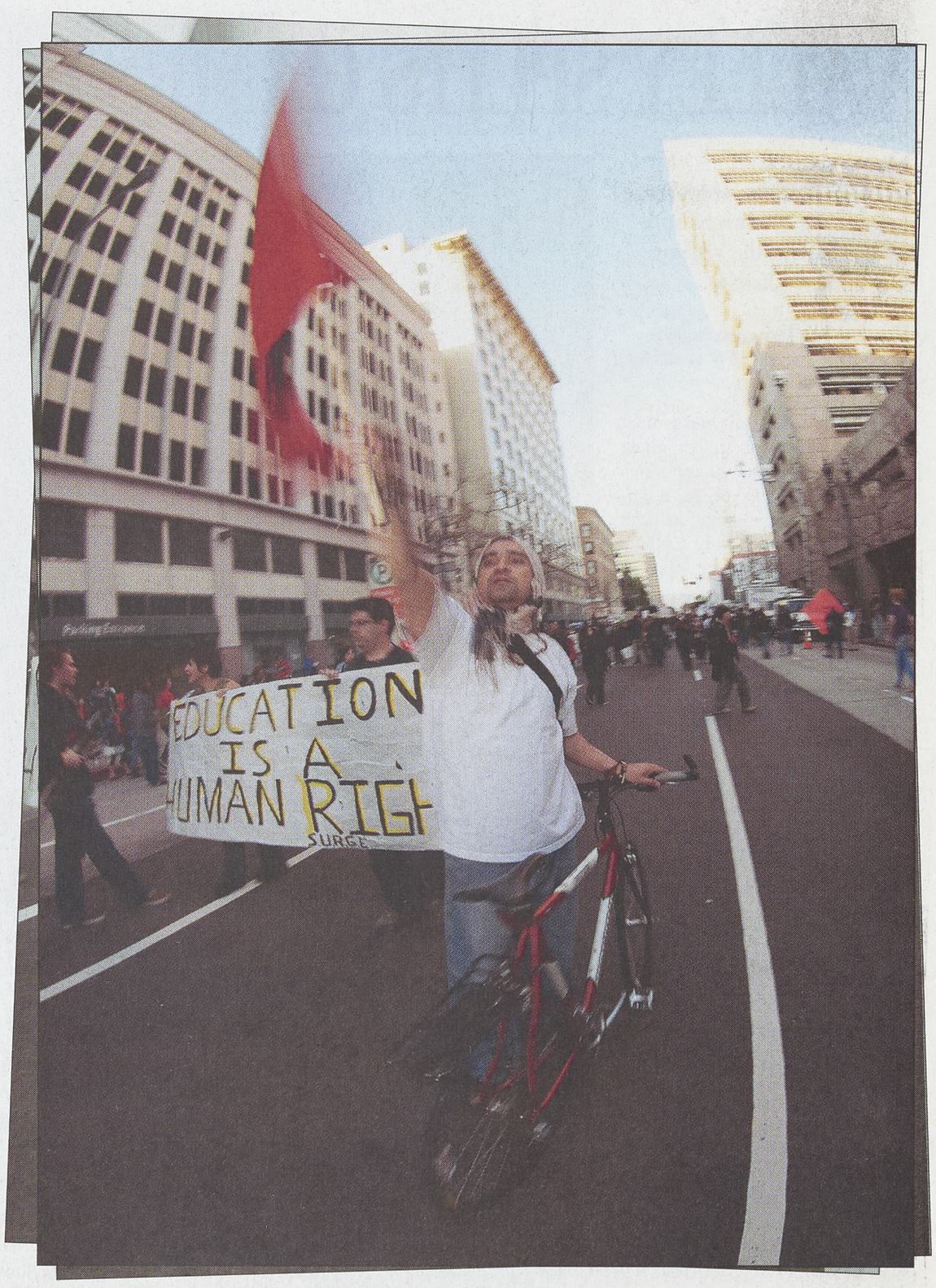
BELOW - Even though it was billed as a non-violent protest, one protester was arrested for disordely conduct.

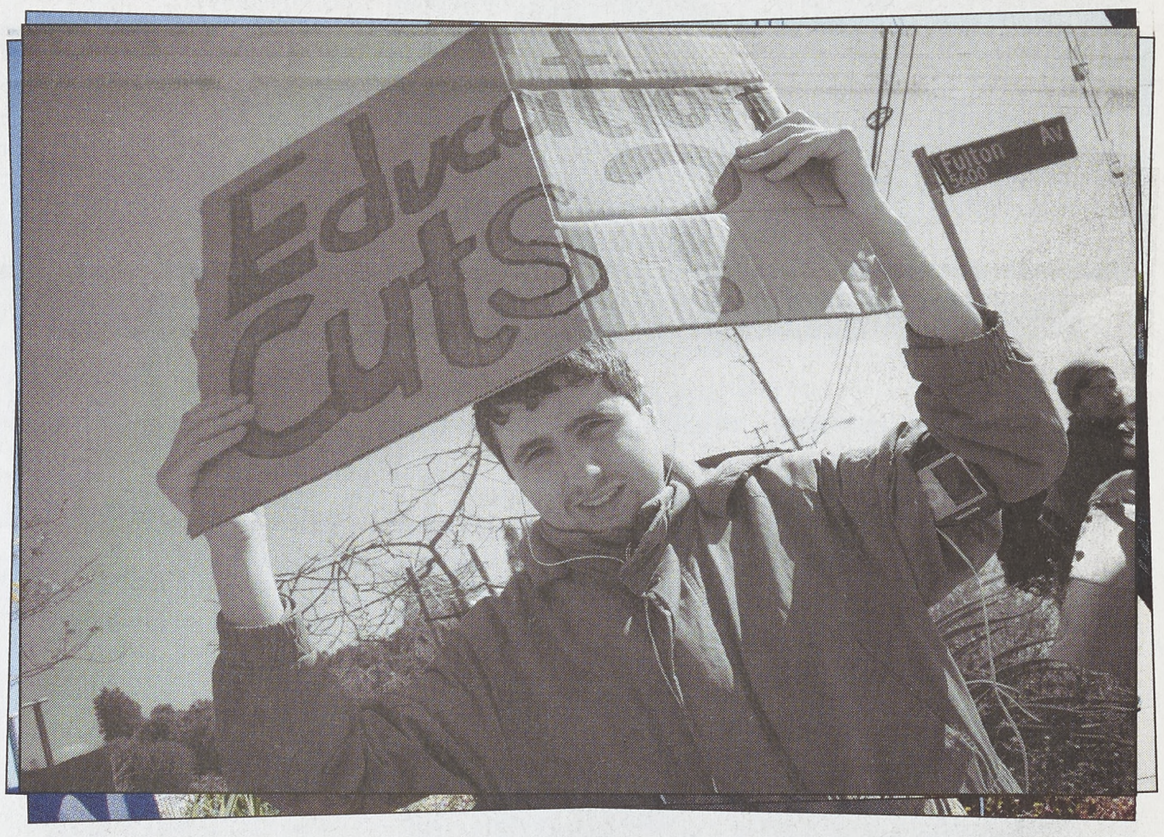
RIGHT - Holding his sign up high, Valley student Vadim Albuth marches in protest.

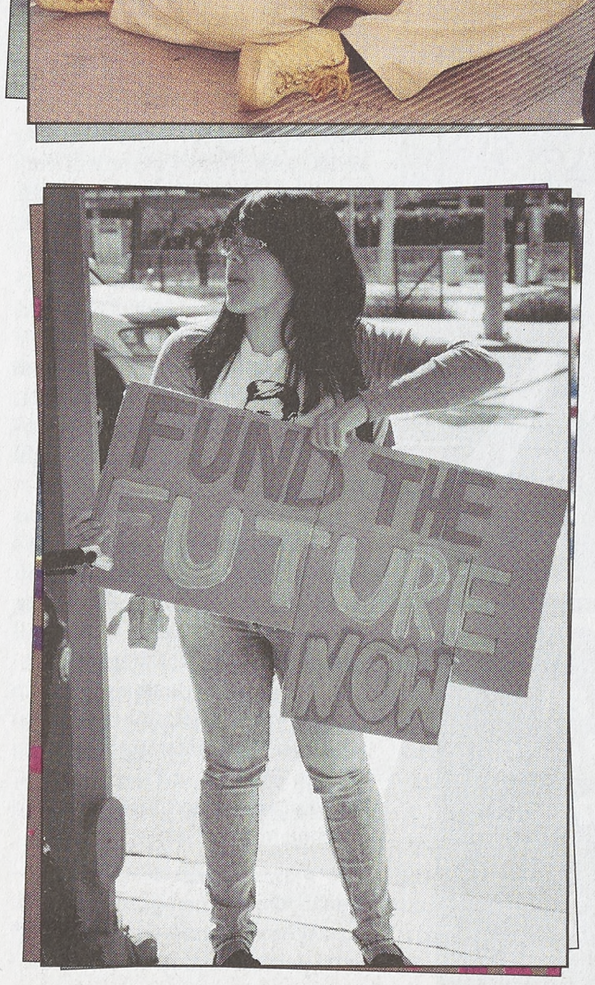
BOTTOM LEFT - Andrea Barrera holds a sign and chants in protest.

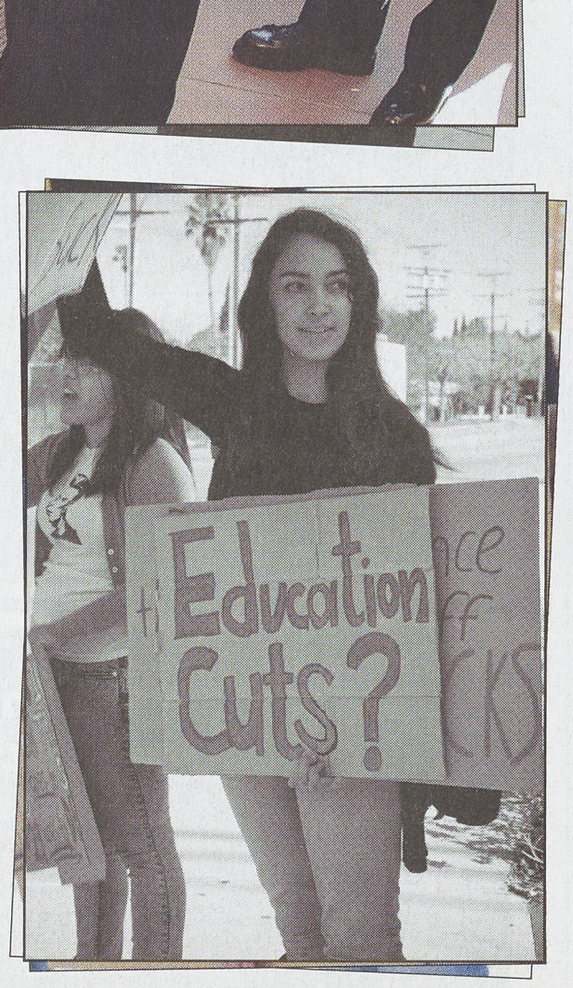
BOTTOM CENTER - Valley Students Andrea Barrera and Fiona Pulskamp take it to the streets to protest statewide cuts.

BOTTOM RIGHT - Spearheaded by Labor Relation Representative Andy Evano, teachers and school workers from the California School Employees Association join in.









Black and white photos by Grettel Cortes, Chief Photographer. Color photos by Angela Beach.